

Date: 21 February 2024  
Our ref: 465481  
Your ref: 3/2023/0632



Lyndsey Hayes  
Ribbles Valley Borough Council

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
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Dear Lyndsey Hayes

**Planning consultation:** Proposed earth banked slurry lagoon 50m x 50m.

**Location:** Land off Preston Road Longridge PR3 3BL.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 26 January 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

#### **SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE**

##### **NO OBJECTION**

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites:

- Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Bowland Fells Site of Specific Scientific interest (SSSI)
- Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods SSSI

We have no objection and our further advice on designated sites is set out below:

##### **Bowland Fells SPA**

Natural England notes that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has not been produced by your authority, but by the applicant. As competent authority, it is your responsibility to produce the HRA and be accountable for its conclusions. We provide the advice enclosed on the assumption that your authority intends to adopt this HRA to fulfil your duty as competent authority.

Natural England have reviewed the shadow HRA (Pennine Ecological, January 2024.) The assessment concludes that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

To meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, we advise you to record your decision that a likely significant effect can be ruled out. The following may provide a suitable justification for that decision:

- screening has indicated that the process contribution (PC) for all pollutants at all sites will be <1% of the relevant critical level or load for the most sensitive habitat at each site (including nationally designated sites.)
- completion of a suitable desk-based assessment and habitat suitability survey for qualifying bird species which demonstrates no significant habitat attributes for qualifying birds within or near to the proposal which could significantly impact Functionally Linked Land (FLL) or the qualifying bird populations.

### **Bowland Fells SSSI and Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods SSSI**

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified and has no objection.

Should the proposal significantly change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Halliwell-Jones  
Sustainable Development Adviser  
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire